

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a built-in lamp having a holder for fastening the lamp into an installation surface, such as a room ceiling. The lamp includes a reflector 8 which is positioned within its holder so that the reflector 8 extends beyond the installation surface 1 in a main illumination direction A as shown, for example, in FIG. 1.

A reflection element 6, 15 extends transversely with respect to the main direction of illumination A. As such, the reflection element is also spaced from the installation surface. As such, an area is formed between the reflection element 6, 15 and the installation surface 1.

The reflection element 6, 15 is illuminated by light as shown, for example, on the left side of FIG. 1. This reflection element reflects at least a portion of the light impinging against it in the direction opposite from the main direction A and against the installation surface thus illuminating the installation surface. Further reflection by the installation surface, of course, reflects the light back in the general direction of the main illumination direction A.

Consequently, Applicant's invention achieves a unique lighting effect in which, not only is the lamp illuminated, but also an area of the installation surface surrounding the lamp. Furthermore, this aspect of Applicant's invention has now been clarified in claim 21, the only independent claim in the instant application.

The Patent Examiner, however, has previously rejected claim 21 as unpatentably obvious over EP 1 033 530 A2 to Muggenburg when combined with U.S. Patent No. 5,931,567 to Salzmann. However, in view of Applicant's amendments to claim 21, Applicant respectfully submits that this basis for rejection can no longer stand.

More specifically, the Muggenburg reference admittedly discloses a lamp such as a fluorescent lamp having a fluorescent bulb 7. Muggenburg also discloses a housing 1 which is

secured to the installation surface and a reflector 3 mounted to the housing 1 and which extends outwardly from the housing 1.

Müggenburg also discloses prism reflectors 21a and 21b. These prism reflectors 21a and 21b receive at least a portion of the light from the bulb 7 which extends from the interior surface 12 of the housing and through the prism reflectors 21a and 21b.

There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion, whatsoever, that light is reflected by the prism reflectors 21a and 21b, or any other structure for that matter, in a direction opposite from the main direction and back against the installation surface in the fashion now more clearly defined in claim 21 in this application. Rather, all of the illumination from the lamp 7 either passes directly outwardly through the end 5 of the reflector 3, or is reflected from the interior of the housing 1 and out through the prism reflectors 21a and 21b. Indeed, since the prism reflectors 21a and 21b appear to slope downwardly from the reflector 3 it simply would not be possible for light to be reflected in a direction opposite from the main direction, i.e. out through the end of the reflector 3, and against the installation surface thus illuminating the installation surface in the fashion now more clearly defined in claim 21.

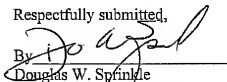
The Patent Examiner's secondary reference to Salzmann does not cure this deficiency of Müggenburg. Specifically, there is absolutely no structure in the Salzmann patent that provides for a rearward reflection of at least some of the light against the installation surface as is now more clearly defined in claim 21. Indeed, it appears that the Patent Examiner has merely relied upon the Salzmann patent for teaching a lamp which is secured to an installation surface so that a portion of the lamp housing is contained within the installation surface. Applicant, however, freely acknowledges that such recessed lighting is well known.

In conclusion, neither the Muggenburg nor Salzmann patent, or any of the other cited prior art references for that matter, teach or even suggest a lamp in which a portion of the illumination from the lamp is reflected back against the installation surface in the fashion now clearly defined in claim 21. Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that claim 21, as well as its dependent claims, patentably define Applicant's invention over the prior art of record and are, therefore, allowable. Such action is respectfully solicited.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 07-1180.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

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